

Gutenberg Martinez; former President Patricio Aylwin of Chile; and Gov. Pedro Rossello of Puerto Rico.

## Remarks to the Community in Casablanca, Chile

April 17, 1998

Thank you. Mr. President, Mrs. Frei, Mr. Mayor, Senora, thank you all for making Hillary and me feel so welcome in this beautiful town of yours. I want to say a special word of appreciation to all the young people who came out, especially those who made the nice signs in English. Thank you very much.

And I think we should give another round of applause to Los del Mauco for the *cueca*. The music was wonderful. Thank you very much. Also the wonderful band, Colegio Saleciano, from Valparaiso, let's give a hand to the band over here. [*Applause*]

You know, one reason we wanted to come here is that the house in the United States where the President lives is called *Casa Blanca*. And so when I came here today, the mayor said to me, "Here you're in my *Casa Blanca* and I am the boss. But when I come to visit you, you can be the boss in your *Casa Blanca*."

Let me say to all of you, you should be very proud of your country and your President, for beginning tomorrow Chile will host and President Frei will preside over the Summit of the Americas, a gathering of the 34 freely elected leaders of our hemisphere. And the real reason

we are here is because we want you to know that we will do our best to discuss things and work together on things that will make your lives better.

We believe that the people of Chile, the people of the United States, the people of all the Americas will share a common future. And we want it to be a future with better education for all of our children, better health care for all of our people, a cleaner environment in every nation in the Americas, and a stronger, better, freer future in which we are all working together.

The United States is proud to be a partner and a friend of Chile, and I have enjoyed very much coming here today and seeing all of you. In the faces of the children, I see the future of the Americas, and I like what I see very much.

Thank you very much. *Muchas gracias*.

NOTE: The President spoke at 5:22 p.m. in the town square. In his remarks, he referred to Mayor Manuel Vera of Casablanca. The President also referred to the *cueca*, a Chilean national dance.

## Remarks at the Opening Session of the Summit of the Americas in Santiago, Chile

April 18, 1998

President Frei, distinguished heads of state, leaders of the Chilean Congress, Supreme Court, members of the diplomatic corps, President Wolfensohn, President Iglesias, Secretary General Gaviria, Secretary General Ruggiero, Director General Alleyne; 4 years ago in Miami, we, the democratic nations of this hemisphere, met in the historic Summit of the Americas and pledged ourselves to a common future rooted

in shared values, shared burdens, shared progress, and embodied in our call for a free trade area of the Americas by 2005.

I thank all my fellow leaders and their governments for their faithfulness to the summit process. I thank especially those who helped us to begin the Summit of the Americas in 1994.

Now we come together in Santiago. What shall we do? First, we should celebrate a new